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Chief of Engineers Signs Folsom Dam Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Army's Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers, has signed a Chief of Engineers Report that recommends a seven-foot raise in the height of Folsom Dam to reduce flood damages and restore ecosystem functions and values along the lower American River in California.

His report endorses the recommendations of the Corps' division and district commanders in California and has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Army for transmission to Congress.

The recommended plan would strengthen the dam and reduce the annual probability of flooding in Sacramento. It also includes environmental restoration features for wildlife habitat along the lower American River parkway. In addition, temperature control shutters at Folsom Dam would be mechanized to improve the regulation of water temperature to increase native salmon and steelhead populations.

The estimated cost of the plan that the Sacramento District Engineer recommended is \$219 million, and the benefit-cost ratio is 2.5 to one. The cost with the modifications is \$249 million, and the benefit-cost ratio is 1.9 to one.

A technical review team of Corps experts and world class consultants has examined the need to strengthen Folsom Dam and found some modifications to the dam will be required to ensure an adequate margin of safety with the mini-raise.

"The team concluded that some modifications to the dam will be needed," Lt. Gen Flowers said, "Their analysis contributed to my recommendation. This project will help save lives and property from flood damage."

The Sacramento District's report had noted the need for further analysis about the interface between the foundation of the dam and the bedrock during post-authorization design work.

(more)

Chief of Engineers Signs Folsom Dam Report (Continued)

“The team’s analysis has refined the basis for design, Lt. Gen Flowers said, “and the final design solution will improve the stability of the dam in a cost-effective manner.”

Lt. Gen. Flowers also noted that further technical analysis will be necessary during the post-authorization design phase of the project.

The review team included engineering and geotechnical experts from the Corps as well as three independent consultants. In addition, the team consulted with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Division of Safety of Dams.

For additional information on the Folsom Dam project, visit:
<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/civ/folsom>